

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-7 were pending in the application. Claims 1-7 were rejected. No claims were merely objected to and no claims were allowed. By the foregoing response, no claims were canceled, no claims were amended, and no new claims were added. No new matter is presented.

Applicant Initiated Telephone Conference

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Nguyen and Primary Examiner Xuan Thai for taking the time to discuss the outstanding rejection on the record. Applicants explained why the combination of Griffin taken in view of Kadota does not teach all of the elements of Applicants' claims 1, 6 and 7 under the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103. Although an agreement was not reached, Examiner Nguyen asked Applicant to submit the remarks made during the interview for his review and consideration.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §103

The examiner asserts Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S.P.N. 4,952,922 to Griffin et al. in view of U.S.P.N. 5,384,580 to Kadota. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The examiner contends Griffin teaches nearly all of the claim elements of Applicants' independent claims 1, 6 and 7 with the exception of those claim elements directed to the "cursor". The examiner relies upon Kadota to teach those claim elements related to the "cursor" as recited in Applicants' claims 1, 6 and 7. However, Applicants assert Griffin and Kadota both fail to teach, suggest or provide the requisite motivation to teach 'the virtual disposition of the three dimensional map in parallel to the map image at a backwards position thereof seen from a predetermined viewpoint, such that straight lines extending from the predetermined viewpoint to given points on the peripheral edge of a three dimensional map' as recited in Applicants' claims 1, 6 and 7.

With respect to Griffin, the examiner relies upon the teaches at col. 5, ll. 33-47, col. 6, ll. 1-19 and 38-54, along with figures 3A, 3B and 4 in framing the present rejection. During Applicants' telephone conference with the examiner and supervisor, the examiner relied heavily

upon figures 3A and 3B of Griffin to teach implicitly, and thus suggest, that the virtual disposition of the three-dimensional map of Griffin appears to be parallel to the viewing screen 122 of Griffin. Such teaching and suggestion would correspond to a brief recitation of part of a claim element of Applicants' Claims 1, 6 and 7, but does not suggest the entire step of the claimed process (claim 1) or entire component of the claimed apparatus (claims 6 and 7). In short, Applicants contend the examiner is misinterpreting the teachings of Griffin.

Griffin teaches at col. 5, ll. 33-47 that the relationship of the operator of the terrain simulator to the terrain is represented such that the intersection of rays 125 with low resolution voxel 132 represents the operator's line-of-sight encountering an object in the simulated terrain. Referring specifically now to Figures 3A and 3B, Applicants draw the examiner's attention to the fact that the rays 125 intersect the viewing screen 122 and do not contact the peripheral edges of either viewing screen 122 or cartesian coordinate system represented by the x, y, z axes, that is, the three-dimensional map.

During Applicant's interview of May 2, the examiner repeatedly mentioned the viewing screen 122 appears to be disposed parallel to the three-dimensional map of figure 3A. However, Applicants pointed out that the examiner overlooks the fact that the rays 125 are shown to intersect the viewing screen 122 rather than "such straight lines extending from the predetermined viewpoint to given points on the peripheral edge of the map image further pass through corresponding points on a peripheral edge of the three-dimensional map" as recited in Applicants' claims 1, 6 and 7. Upon careful review, Griffin does not teach or suggest aligning the two dimension map image and the corresponding three-dimensional map in such a manner. In fact, when reading Griffin in its entirety, Griffin does not consider aligning the viewing screen and the three-dimensional map using "straight lines extending from the predetermined viewpoint to given points on a peripheral edge of the map image further pass through corresponding points on a peripheral edge of the three-dimensional map" as recited in Applicants' Claims 1, 6 and 7.

Applicants draw the examiners attention to col. 7, ll. 27-44. Griffin teaches using a parameterized distribution function applied to the aircraft field-of-view to determine the set of sample effectors which are projected from the future aircraft position currently being considered, wherein the analysis consists of determining the x, y, z coordinates where the sample vector

intersects the terrain surface. This teaching of Griffin further supports Applicants position that Griffin does not teach, suggest or provide the requisite motivation to alter its teachings and teach the claim element “virtually disposing the three-dimensional map in parallel to the map image at a backwards position thereof seen from a predetermined viewpoint, such that straight lines extending from the predetermined viewpoints to given points on the peripheral edge of the map image further pass through corresponding points on a peripheral edge of the three-dimensional map” as recited in Applicants’ Claim 1 and embodied in Applicants’ Claims 6 and 7.

Even if one of ordinary skill in the art would dispose the viewing screen 122 in parallel to the three-dimensional map as suggested by the examiner’s reading of Griffin, Griffin still fails to teach the virtual disposition of the three-dimensional map in parallel to the map image based upon straight lines extending from the predetermined viewpoint to given points of the peripheral edge of the map image that further pass through corresponding points on a peripheral edge of the three-dimensional map as disclosed in Applicants’ claims 1, 6 and 7. One of ordinary skill in art would not learn such teaching or suggestion based upon Griffin’s disclosure. One of ordinary skill in the art could only learn such teachings and disclosure after reading Applicants’ claims and supporting disclosure.

Upon reviewing the Kadota reference Kadota also fails to teach, suggest or provide the requisite motivation to alter the teachings of itself or Griffin in order to teach the claim element “virtually disposing the three-dimensional map and parallel to the map image at a backward position thereof seen from a predetermined viewpoint, such that straight lines extending from the predetermined viewpoint to given points on a peripheral edge of the map image further pass through corresponding points on a peripheral edge of the three-dimensional map” as recited in Applicants’ claim 1 and embodied in claims 6 and 7. Kadota is directed to a calculator that calculates projection coordinates of principal vertexes of a displayed object with respect to a projection plane from a visual point. However, Kadota does not teach or suggest the disposition of a three-dimensional map with respect to a two dimensional map image according to Applicants’ claims 1, 6 and 7. Such teachings or suggestion are noticeably absent from Kadota. With that, Kadota cannot cure the deficiencies present in the Griffin reference.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the examiner withdraw the

rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 and find that Claims 1-7 are allowable.

For at least these reasons, Applicants contend independent Claims 1, 6 and 7 are patentable over the teachings of Griffin in view of Kadota.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims as pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on May 8, 2007.


Ross J. Christie